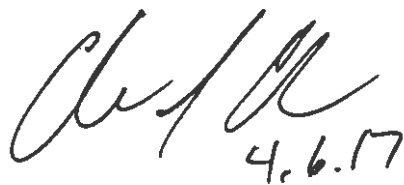


**Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 2, 2017**

**Chad J Courville  
Chairman**



4.6.17

**Natchitoches, Louisiana**

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting  
and are not verbatim transcripts of the proceedings.

Audio files of the meetings are kept at the  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
2000 Quail Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 765-2806

**AGENDA**  
**Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
**Natchitoches, Louisiana**

**March 2, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.**

	Page
1 Call to Order	5
2 Pledge of Allegiance	5
3 Roll Call	5
4 Adoption of February 02, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes	5
5 Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege	5
6 Enforcement Reports February, 2017	6
7 Receive Update on the 2017 First Extraordinary Legislative Session and Impacts to the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries	6
8 Receive an Update on Public Comments and Consider Amendments to previously approved Notice of Intent to Amend the General and Wildlife Management Area Rules and Regulations for the 2017-2018 Season, the Resident Game Hunting Season for the 2017-2019 Hunting Seasons, the General and Wildlife Management Area Rules and Regulations for the Turkey Season, the Turkey Hunting Areas, and Seasons, and Bag Limits for the 2018 Turkey Season, and the Migratory Bird Seasons, Regulations, and Bag Limits for the 2017-2018 Hunting Season	8
9 Receive Information on Calcasieu Lake Oysters and Consider a Declaration of Emergency for the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season	10
10 Receive a Presentation and Consider a Declaration of Emergency Setting the 2017 Opening Date for Bait Menhaden	13
11 Receive the Gulf Angler Focus Group Report: Possible Alternative Approaches to Recreational Red Snapper Management	15
12 Receive Update on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's February Meeting	16
13 Receive a Presentation on Aquatic Vegetation Control – Issues and Expectations for 2017	17
14 Set June, 2017 Commission Meeting Date	18

15	Receive Public Comments	18
16	Adjournment	18
	Appendices	

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**OF**  
**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**Thursday, March 2, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was **Called to Order** at 10:00 AM on March 2, 2017 in Natchitoches, Louisiana, at the Natchitoches Events Center in the Magnolia Room by **Chairman, Chad J Courville**.

**Commissioner Sunseri** led the meeting attendees in the **Pledge of Allegiance**. **Chairman Courville** then asked for everyone to remain standing and observe a moment of silence and, if inclined, private prayer for our injured officers and our entire Department staff.

**Chairman Courville** asked Commission Secretary Angela Thomas to conduct a **Roll Call**. The following Commissioners were present:

Chad Courville

Bart Yakupzack

Pat Manuel

Jerri Smitko

Al Sunseri

Secretary Jack Montoucet was also present.

**Chairman Courville** called for a motion for **Adoption of the February 2, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes**. A motion for adoption was made by **Commissioner Sunseri** and seconded by **Commissioner Yakupzack**. The motion passed with no opposition.

For **Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege**, **Chairman Courville** thanked the staff of the City of Natchitoches, Ms. Thomas and Mr. Courtney for putting the off-site meeting together and complimented them on doing such a nice job.

Secretary Montoucet complimented the venue and recognized Natchitoches Mayor Lee Posey, Mr. Tony Davis of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Taylor Townsend and Senator Gerald Long; thanked them for the reception hosted for us the night before. Secretary Montoucet also recognized District Attorney Billy

Joe Harrington and State Representatives Terry Brown, Frankie Howard and Gene Reynolds who were all in attendance.

**Commissioner Smitko** took a moment to thank the City of Natchitoches representatives, to compliment them on the lovely reception, their beautiful town and express her appreciation for their hospitality.

**Chairman Courville** also mentioned that, if a member of the public would like to make a comment or address the Commission, there are comment cards in the back of the room. Please fill out a card if you wish to speak and provide them to Ms. Thomas.

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Martin presented the **Enforcement Reports for February, 2017** by stating there were 6 boating incidents, 5 injuries and 1 fatality. In February, there were 744 written citations, 285 written warnings and 21 public assists. News releases for some cases that were made last month included Enforcement agents cited a Franklinton man for alleged deer hunting violations on January 30, 2016 in Washington Parish for taking over the daily limit of deer, failing to comply with deer tagging requirements, intentional littering and intentional concealment or destruction of wildlife; Enforcement agents arrested three men for alleged oyster violations on the morning of January 31 in St. Bernard Parish for dredging for oysters in a polluted area, unlawfully taking oysters off a private lease, taking oysters during illegal hours, and failing to have written permission to harvest oysters on a private lease, one of the subjects was also cited for failing to fill out an oyster log book; and Enforcement agents cited a St. Bernard man for alleged commercial crab violations on February 1st in Plaquemines Parish, the subject was cited for possessing immature female crabs.

**Commissioner Smitko** commended the Enforcement Agents in Region 3 for the work they have done in getting a lot of narcotics off the street.

Mr. Cole Garrett, Attorney and Legislative Liaison for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, presented Agenda Item No. 7, to **Receive Update on the 2017 First Extraordinary Legislative Session and Impacts to the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries**. Mr. Garrett began his update by advising the Commission that the Special Session was 10 days, running from February 13 to February 22. The Legislature was tasked with balancing the budget and getting the State back on even footing in order to pay its bills. There were three appropriations bills that were filed. One was the Governor's proposal, known as HB-1, and would have used \$119 million dollars of Rainy Day funds. HB-1 would have taken \$550,000 from the Department's Artificial Reef Fund and would have used \$5 million dollars in Attrition

Savings. Attrition Savings come from those positions that were not filled within State agencies. HB-1 did not get out of the House. Another bill that was brought forward by several Representatives was HB-8. HB-8 would have used zero Rainy Day funds and would not have taken anything out of the Artificial Reef Fund. However, HB-8 did not progress through the House. HB-3 did, however, and that was the bill that ended up being the Appropriations Bill that made it through the Session. It used \$99 million dollars out of the Rainy Day fund, did not use any of Wildlife and Fisheries money, but did use \$10 million dollars in Attrition Funds. The Department managed to come out of the Special Session unscathed with no money taken from the Department. However, the following day there was a meeting of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. There is a process by which the Division of Administration can use constitutionally protected funds to meet a deficit when there is a budget deficit. Through that process, there was \$384,000 taken out of the Department's Artificial Reef Fund to go towards balancing the budget. Another bill of note is HCR-1 which is a Concurrent Resolution brought by the Speaker of the House. HCR-1 would direct the Treasurer to use a fraction of every dollar of what flows through the Bond Security and Redemption Fund. This fund is established to pay the State's obligations before they are appropriated to other funds. All money that is earned by the State flows through this account. Currently, all the statutory dedications established within the Department are separated out and appropriated in full, along with any constitutionally protected funds. Those are all paid in full and what's left is the State General Fund and, from there, they pay the State's obligations. This Resolution would direct the Treasurer to take 3% of every dollar that flows through the Bond Redemption and Security Fund, so there would be a direct effect on the Department in approximate amount of \$3 million dollars. The larger issue is a possible diversion of license fees which could result in the Department's approximate loss of \$22 million dollars annually. The Department is very concerned about this possibility and these concerns have been shared with the Treasurer and his Executive Counsel. Department Executives are working with them in an effort to have these concerns addressed. The Resolution will be in effect for fiscal year 2017-2018. Additional concerns are donations, like Russell Sage, Marsh Island, MC Davis. All of these funds are established through Acts of Donation which are explicit as to what those monies can be used for and what it cannot be used for, which is diversion to pay the State's debt. This could result in a reversion of the Donations. These additional concerns have also been communicated to the Treasurer. The final concern is the constitutional limits that are placed on both the Artificial Reef Fund and the Conservation Fund, which the Conservation Fund is the Department's day-to-day operating budget. There is a 5% limit on any constitutional fund that can be used when there is a deficit. In summary, the Department could stand to lose several million dollars. Department Executives are doing everything in their power to work with the Treasurer, the Division of Administration

and the Legislature in order to get some resolution to these and we expect and hope to prevent the loss of this substantial amount of funds. Mr. Garrett asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

**Commissioner Sunseri** asked if there is anything that the Commission can do as far as participating in meetings with the Treasurer or Legislators to let them know exactly what kind of impact that would have and what a loss it would be to lose funds, needlessly, by trying to steer them in other directions. Mr. Garrett replied that the Commission, as the constitutional body that directs this agency has a strong voice and anything they can do would be helpful, but deferred to Secretary Montoucet on the best plan of action. Secretary Montoucet stated that he thinks the Commission can certainly help the Department. The problem is until the budget issue is fixed once and for all, we are going to continuously see these funds being attacked. In the past 8 years, the previous governor took \$45 million dollars out of the Artificial Reef Fund. The Department has fishing issues, red snapper issues, offshore issues and all of those things there are problems with can't be fixed if they keep taking the money that is needed in order to address those problems. Whatever the Commissioners can do, whether it is send a letter on behalf of the Commission to the Treasurer and the Governor telling them this can't continue because it's going to affect our Department, and it has already affected it to some degree by using that \$45 million dollars already, he certainly recommends doing that. Tell them enough is enough; find another way to fix the budget. **Chairman Courville** thanked a few Commissioners for taking action during the Special Session and stated that he thinks the Commission does have a role in this. **Chairman Courville** also requested that Mr. Garrett come to another monthly meeting to keep the Commission up to speed on what they may need to do or what actions they may need to take as a group. All of the Commissioners are interested in doing whatever they can to make sure the Department has the resources necessary to function and provide the services that the sportsmen and women of this State have contributed to and planned it to go to a specific activity.

Mr. Kenny Ribbeck, WMA Administrator, presented the Agenda Item No. 8, **Receive an Update on Public Comments and Consider Amendments to previously approved Notice of Intent to Amend the General and Wildlife Management Area Rules and Regulations for the 2017-2018 Season, the Resident Game Hunting Season for the 2017-2019 Hunting Seasons, the General and Wildlife Management Area Rules and Regulations for the Turkey Season, the Turkey Hunting Areas, and Seasons, and Bag Limits for the 2018 Turkey Season, and the Migratory Bird Seasons, Regulations, and Bag Limits for the 2017-2018 Hunting Season.** Mr. Ribbeck began his presentation by first giving a nod of appreciation to Steve Smith, WMA Program Manager, who has done a great job in keeping up with all the public comments and was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Ribbeck then presented a



PowerPoint Presentation of the summary of the public hearings held and public comments received to date, a copy of the presentation is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes. Mr. Ribbeck stated that the public comment period is ongoing and closes on Sunday, March 5. At the end of the public comment period, a final summary will be provided to the Commission. **Chairman Courville** then asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

**Commissioner Yakupzack** inquired as to the March 5th date for the end of public comments, if this Commission were to make amendments today, would we not accept public comments on those amendments on into the April meeting when this NOI is finally considered. Ms. Yolanda Martin, General Counsel for the Department, responded yes, amendments could be made now and additional comments would be allowed until April when the NOI is finalized and a Potpourri is filed. **Chairman Courville** then called for **Public Comments to Agenda Item No. 8**.

Mr. Charles Williams from Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, addressed the Commission. Mr. Williams appeared to represent the Louisiana Waterfowl Alliance and Louisiana Wildlife Federation on an issue they feel is important to duck hunting in the State on WMAs. They have been advocating policies on WMA management and waterfowl hunting, specifically the use of Limited Access Areas in the coastal areas and the reestablishment of certain rest areas in the inland WMAs that are attractive to waterfowl. They believe this will benefit duck hunting and the resource because of the duck hunting pressure that is occurring in the WMAs and, in particular, with the number of hunters trying to hunt in these areas. They see changes that are needed which are not in this round of suggestions. Their hopes are that some will be studied in the future by the staff for possible implementation in next year's round of WMA changes. Mr. Williams all expressed their support for the delay in turkey season opening.

Having no additional Public Comments on this Agenda Item, **Chairman Courville** asked for proposed changes from Commissioners. **Commissioner Yakupzack** requested that, considering Lance Campbell's presentation at the February Commission Meeting on the Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area, specifically relating to the Limited Access Areas within the Main Delta and the Wax Delta, the Department take another 30 day look at the Limited Access Area issue, see what kind of comment that draws from the public. If there is an overwhelming opposition to the concept and we hear about it in the next 30 days, it may provide the Department with some insight for looking at it going forward. Motion was made by **Commissioner Yakupzack** to expand the Limited Access Areas in the Atchafalaya Delta WMA that we currently have in an approximate fashion of 25% on both the Main Delta and the Wax Delta with clear access allowed within the active passes within those areas such that, if you're in the pass

with your motorized vessel you can access those areas but once you're out of the pass you're limited, the expansion areas and active passes to be defined with assistance from the Department. **Commissioner Manuel** seconded the motion. **Chairman Courville** called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

**Chairman Courville** inquired as to a reasonable time frame the public should expect to see an updated map of the Atchafalaya Delta WMA with the expanded Limited Access Areas on the Department's website. Randy Myers, Assistant Secretary, Wildlife Division, advised that it would take approximately a week or two in order for the Wildlife Division and Enforcement to meet internally, define the expansion areas and have the maps updated.

**Commissioner Manuel** spoke about his inquiries at both the January and February Commission Meetings as to why Deer Area 8 was split. **Commissioner Manuel** also stated that he had an amendment that he'd been assured by the Department that everything would remain the same and that it would simply rid that portion of Area 8 that was in the middle of Area 3. Motion was made by **Commissioner Manuel** to change that portion in Allen Parish, east of Louisiana 113 from the parish line to US 190 North of US 190, eastward to Kinder, west of US 165 northward to Louisiana 10 at Oakdale and south of Louisiana 10 from Oakdale westward to the parish line. In Beauregard Parish, that portion east of Louisiana 113. In Vernon Parish, that portion east of Louisiana 113 from the parish line northward to Pitkin and south of Louisiana 10 from Pitkin southward to the parish line, to become a portion of Deer Area 3 with the same seasons as Deer Area 3 except to include allowing hunting with or without dogs during that last segment, the firearm season within this new portion of Deer Area 3. **Commissioner Smitko** asked why the carve-out was there to begin with. Mr. Ribbeck advised that deer dog hunting was the driving force behind it because Area 3 does not allow it. **Commissioner Smitko** seconded the motion. **Chairman Courville** called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

Commissioner Al Sunseri began Agenda Item No. 9, to **Receive Information on Calcasieu Lake Oysters and Consider a Declaration of Emergency for the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season**, by asking the Department to provide a report on the oysters harvested within the West Cove and East Cove areas, separately, and include the Chenier opening and what was harvested, how long it was open. Mr. Steve Beck, the Department's Oyster Program Manager, presented a PowerPoint Presentation of the Oyster Stock Assessment in Calcasieu Lake, a copy of the presentation is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes. Upon completion of Mr. Beck's presentation, discussions were had between Commissioner Sunseri and Mr. Beck regarding the seed availability and the market sack availability in

the Calcasieu Lake area. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked Mr. Beck if there were any recommendations made at the Louisiana Oyster Task Force Meeting regarding Calcasieu Lake. Mr. Beck replied that yes, two motions were made; one was to reopen all of Calcasieu Lake and the other was to double the possession limit in the areas east of the river, north of MRGO. Having no additional comments from the Commissioners, **Chairman Courville** then called for **Public Comments to Agenda Item No. 8**.

Mr. Mark Valentino of Bayfresh Oyster Company from Cameron, Louisiana, addressed the Commission. Mr. Valentino commented as to how, although the East side was open, the West side was fished longer until the Chenier Reef was opened. Due to the Chenier Reef being closed by DHH, it was only actually open for fishing for half the time. There was only about 7 days that the Chenier Reef was open. Mr. Valentino wrapped up his comments by stating that if the resource is depleted, fishermen wouldn't still be catching their 7 sack limits so quickly and the oysters would be undersize. That is not the case. The resource is not being overfished. The oyster fishermen want to protect the resource as much as everyone.

Ms. Lerlene Rodrigue of the Calcasieu Oyster Task Force from Cameron, Louisiana, was next to address the Commission. Ms. Rodrigue commented how she had been working in West Cove for the past 35 years. Her boat is a 24 foot Jefferson hull and it can't take the weather in Big Lake like can in West Side. West Side is a lot calmer and she can still fish when the weather gets rough. Her boat has sunk in Big Lake so she doesn't want to be there. Ms. Rodrigue also commented how she hasn't brought a paycheck in since the season was closed 3 weeks. She is asking the Commission to consider reopening because she needs to go back to work.

Ms. Jennifer Picou from Cameron, Louisiana, then addressed the Commission. Ms. Picou is a commissioner on the Cameron Port and Terminal Board District, an oyster buyer and commercial fisherman. She thanked the Commission for giving them the opportunity to harvest oysters in Calcasieu Lake this season. Without their support, they would not have had a season. Ms. Picou asked for reconsideration in opening Calcasieu Lake to harvest oysters.

Mr. Adley Dyson, Sr. of Bayfresh Oyster Company from Cameron, Louisiana, was next to address the Commission. Mr. Dyson believes the quality of the oysters in West Cove was getting bigger and better every day. Mr. Dyson feels that the Department's numbers are wrong and asks that the Commission reopen the season.

**Chairman Courville** advised that was the last of the Public Comment cards and asked for additional comments or questions from the Commission. Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Martin informed the Commission that he received information from the Regional Captain that 15 citations have been written for taking undersized oysters and 2 for closed area. **Chairman Courville** asked that a complete copy of Mr. Beck's report and a copy of Enforcement's Report be provided to the Calcasieu Oyster Task Force for their information. **Chairman Courville** then asked for any questions or comments from the Commission.

**Commissioner Sunseri** addressed the public and stated that there is no action that the Commission can take because the Secretary was given the authority to open and close the seasons as necessary. He hopes that the Department pursues doing a survey because so much has changed in South Louisiana and because the Ship Channel has changed. **Commissioner Sunseri** also stated that personally, as an oysterman, he understands harvest pressure. He recommends that the Department, through whatever means can be found, do a full reevaluation of the lake to find out where the reefs are so that the Department can try to change the square meter sampling. That will look at what the lake looks like today rather than what it looked like 5, 10 or 20 years ago because a lot has happened environmentally with the hurricanes and with what man has done. The Secretary has been given authority, the Commission has acted. **Commissioner Sunseri** thanked everyone for their time. **Chairman Courville** asked for any additional comments or questions.

Mr. Adley Dyson, Sr. readdressed the Commission and stated that Mr. Steve Beck was asked to go out with the fishermen but did not show up. Mr. Dyson also stated that Mr. Beck informed him that no matter how many oysters he finds, he was still going to recommend it be closed. Mr. Dyson said he feels that's the wrong way to look at it and hopes the Secretary or somebody helps them out because if the resource is there, they need the work. **Chairman Courville** responded that he feels the Commission has shown a willingness to try and find solutions for the lake and that he has the full confidence of the staff, including Mr. Beck and Assistant Secretary Banks. **Chairman Courville** also stated that he has had an opportunity to put his eyes on a Restoration and Recovery Plan, that we are going to see a lot of positive things come together and that it will take a unified effort to see significant progress in that lake. **Chairman Courville** asked Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks if he had anything to add. Patrick Banks, Assistant Secretary, Office of Fisheries, began his comments by stating that although the Commission has given authority to the Secretary on this issue it is not outside the Commission's purview to make a change if it sees fit. Assistant Secretary Banks also addressed the comments made about Mr. Beck, what Mr. Beck meant as to saying why it wouldn't matter how many oysters were found. Assistant Secretary Banks explained that

when a stock assessment is done, they do dive on a reef. However, at this time of year, the water is too cold so grain samples are collected. It's not that the Department's biologists or staff would discount going out or working with the industry. That's not how we operate. We've been out with the industry, we work with the industry, we've worked with them a long time and we continue to work with them, despite what they say to us or about us. It's our commitment. **Chairman Courville** thanked Assistant Secretary Banks and assured him that the Commission has full confidence in the Department and his staff's ability.

Mr. Daniel Edgar of Louisiana Bait Products addressed the Commission regarding Agenda Item No. 10, to **Receive a Presentation and Consider a Declaration of Emergency Setting the 2017 Opening Date for Bait Menhaden**, by requesting a two week early opening of the Bait Menhaden Season in the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Edgar explained that the two week early opening of the season was to avoid consumers going to the East Coast for their bait. Mr. Harry Blanchet, Biologist Administrator of the Fisheries Division, then presented the Commissioners with a PowerPoint Presentation, a copy of which is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes, to provide information of the menhaden stock assessment. Upon completion of Mr. Blanchet's presentation, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

**Commissioner Yakupzack** inquired as to whether there was any action to be taken on this issue. Mr. Blanchet replied yes, it is his understanding that the Commission has the authority to set the date of the bait menhaden season different than the legislatively established season opening date. **Chairman Courville** asked Ms. Martin to weigh in on whether the Commission does have the authority to set an opening date for the season different than the legislatively established season opening date. Ms. Yolanda Martin, General Counsel to the Department, confirmed that the Commission does have the authority to open the bait menhaden season two weeks earlier than the legislatively established season opening date. Motion was made by **Commissioner Smitko** to declare an emergency with regard to bait fishing of menhaden and allow the season to open at 12:01 am on March 15, 2017. **Commissioner Manuel** seconded the motion.

**Chairman Courville** asked for questions or comments from the Commission. **Commissioner Yakupzack** asked Mr. Edgar and Mr. Blanchet if this request is strictly Gulf related and would not have any effect on a commercial in-shore shad season. Mr. Edgar responded that was correct, he was asking for the strictly traditional menhaden areas which are south of the shrimp line. **Chairman Courville** then asked for questions or comments from the public.

Mr. Ed Swindell addressed the Commission and stated that he feels this is a good program. Mr. Swindell asked Mr. Edgar how many fish he expects to catch, the maximum, in those two weeks. Mr. Edgar responded that, depending on the weather and the wind, if they can make one to two trips a week he is hopeful that they can catch upwards of 3 – 4 million pounds of fish. Mr. Swindell stated he feels that is miniscule in the whole of the menhaden stock and that weather is a factor at this time of year. Mr. Swindell highly recommends the early opening of the bait menhaden season.

**Chairman Courville** asked Mr. Edgar what was to keep him from coming back to the Commission next year. Mr. Edgar responded that it is possible because they have a storage problem. They are in the process of trying to buy a building and a freezer to avoid having to come back, but it was possible. **Chairman Courville** advised a motion and a second were on the table. **Chairman Courville** called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

The full text of the  
Declaration of Emergency

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

### **Commercial Menhaden Harvest 2017 Commercial Bait Gulf Menhaden Season**

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission  
March 2, 2017**

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 49:953(H) which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to employ emergency procedures to establish seasonal rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and 56:326.3 which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, and 56:325.6 which provides for an extended bait gulf menhaden season outside of the regular commercial menhaden season; the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby sets the following season for the commercial harvest of bait gulf menhaden in Louisiana state waters:

The commercial season for the harvest of bait gulf menhaden taken within Louisiana state waters or landed in Louisiana shall open at 12:01 a.m., March 15, 2017. The harvest of bait gulf

menhaden shall not exceed the established quota of 3,000 metric tons for the 2016-17 bait menhaden season.

The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to modify the season for the commercial harvest of bait gulf menhaden as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Chad J Courville, Chairman  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Chris Macaluso of the Center for Marine Fisheries, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, then presented Agenda Item No. 11, to **Receive the Gulf Angler Focus Group Report: Possible Alternative Approaches to Recreational Red Snapper Management**. Mr. Macaluso presented a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes, while providing the Commissioners with information on alternative recreational management approaches developed by the Gulf Angler Focus Group. Upon completion of Mr. Macaluso's presentation, **Chairman Courville** thanked Mr. Macaluso and asked for any questions or comments from the Commissioners.

**Commissioner Sunseri** asked Mr. Macaluso if they came up with any recommendations that the Commission could move forward with to work with the Department or NOAA or any of the other user groups. Mr. Macaluso replied that the big thing is to continue to use LA Creel as it was designed. They feel LA Creel is a huge step forward in data collection methods over MREP, the tool that is currently being used. If the states will continue to work together, more so than at the council level, there is hope for continued improvement of management of not just red snapper but all species of fish in the Gulf waters. **Commissioner Smitko** then thanked all involved for their hard work and said she thinks it is a start in the right direction. Mr. Macaluso agreed and said this was meant to provide a suite of options that are meant to explore to see what works the best. At this point they are not making recommendations on what works best because there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered. They are going to continue to explore that. **Commissioner Yakupzack** said he'd like for Mr. Macaluso to continue a dialogue with the Commission or with the Chairman as he receives new information or as his group's process advances so

that the Commission can hear from him again. Mr. Macaluso agreed and said that he would be happy to keep the Chairman updated. **Chairman Courville** thanked Mr. Macaluso for coming and extended an offer to the commercial, charter, and recreational sectors to address the Commission regarding snapper.

Mr. Patrick Banks, Assistant Secretary to the Department's Office of Fisheries, next presented Agenda Item No. 12, to **Receive Update on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's February Meeting**, and provided a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes, to update the Commission on the February Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting which was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. Upon completion of the presentation, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions or comments from the Commission. Having no questions or comments from the Commissioners, **Chairman Courville** asked for Public Comments.

Mr. Richard Fischer, Communications Manager of the Louisiana Charter Boat Association, addressed the Commission. Mr. Fischer stated that the Charter Boat Association had received a note from the Commissioners that they'd like to hear from them at Commission meetings following Gulf Council meetings. The Charter Boat Association greatly appreciates the invitation and wanted to take the opportunity to make a public comment. The Council approved the implementation of electronic log books for the Gulf's federally permitted charter for hire sector last month. Double digit charter fishermen from Louisiana showed up to speak in opposition to log books, as well as the various components of log books, during the public comment portion of the meeting. Although the public comments only resulted in small concessions, their comments made the requirements a little less strenuous. Mr. Fischer took the opportunity to thank Department designee, Mr. Myron Fischer, for bringing up the possibility of weekly reporting during the Council's data collection committee session. The weekly reporting discussions stemmed from three meetings that the Department held with charter fishermen leading up to the Council Meeting. The meetings included Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks, Mr. Myron Fischer and Mr. Jason Adriance. Mr. Fischer expressed his appreciation for their time in meeting with the charter fishermen and taking their comments and concerns to the council committees. Weekly reporting was not given consideration at the Council Meeting, it was voted down 9 – 2. At the full Council, discussion of the compromise centered on allowing captains to report up until noon the next day. Louisiana Commercial At Large Member, Ed Swindell, spoke against this and Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks voted in favor of reporting the next day. It did not pass but Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks worked on a compromise to where captains can report at the dock up until the moment fish are unloaded so that captains were not, in a sense, texting while driving. Although this is a small victory for the charter fleet, Mr. Fischer



believes it shows how little charter fishermen in Louisiana and their views are taken into account in this Council process.

**Chairman Courville** thanked Mr. Fischer for his comments and asked the Commissioners if they had any additional questions or comments. **Commissioner Manuel** asked Mr. Ed Swindell if he could give a reason as to why he voted against our efforts. Mr. Swindell responded it was because he still feels like you need to have real time reporting. They were willing to go to not having to do it as you came to the dock but do it after you get to the dock. That was the reason he voted the way he did. If you don't have real time reporting, there is too much going on. Mr. Swindell also stated that he is against weekly reporting because too many captains say they don't remember enough to do good weekly reporting. **Chairman Courville** thanked Mr. Swindell for his comments and asked for any additional questions or comments.

Mr. Ricky Moses, Biologist Director to the Department's Inland Fisheries, then presented Agenda Item No. 13, to **Receive a Presentation on Aquatic Vegetation Control – Issues and Expectations for 2017**. Mr. Moses provided a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is included in the Appendices Section of these Minutes, while delivering his report to the Commissioners on control of giant salvinia. Upon completion of Mr. Moses presentation, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

**Commissioner Smitko** asked if the weevils being used are indigenous. Mr. Moses replied no. **Commissioner Smitko** continued by asking if they come from wherever the giant salvinia comes from. Mr. Moses replied that that was correct. **Commissioner Smitko** inquired as to what else these weevils eat besides giant salvinia. Mr. Moses responded that that was it, just giant salvinia. **Commissioner Smitko** asked if when there is no more giant salvinia to eat if these weevils will just die off. Mr. Moses replied yes, that their population is going to fluctuate with the giant salvinia. They have a very short life span. **Commissioner Smitko** asked if the herbicide they use on the giant salvinia will kill the weevils. Mr. Moses responded that it does not, but if they could kill all the giant salvinia it would hamper or prevent the weevils from spreading. Mr. Moses explained that when spraying, they spray around boat ramps and other public access. The biggest problems they have with giant salvinia are in lakes that have extensive coverage of cypress and tupelo timber. It hampers the spray efforts so much that they go into these areas and try to stop weevils in these areas. **Chairman Courville** asked for any additional questions or comments.

Ms. Juanice Gray inquired as to which area of Black Lake was being worked on today. Mr. Moses deferred to local biologist Wesley Maddox who advised that they are spraying near the bridge area and would be moving more to the south over the next few days. Mr. Moses introduced Mr. Wesley Maddox, Department Biologist, and advised that he was overseeing the contract sprayers in Central Louisiana.

**Chairman Courville** then announced Agenda Item No. 14, to **Set June, 2017 Commission Meeting Date**. **Chairman Courville** advised the Commissioners that he would be out of town on the first Thursday of June and asked if they would consider holding the June, 2017 Commission Meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners conferred and the date of June 8, 2017 was selected. A discussion was held regarding the Legislative Session and whether the meeting time should be set for later in the day. Secretary Montoucet advised that the Legislative Session will end on June 10<sup>th</sup> and that the Commission Meeting's regular meeting time should not interfere with the Legislative Session. Motion was made by **Commissioner Yakupzack** that the June 8, 2017 meeting be held at 9:30 AM. **Commissioner Smitko** seconded the motion. **Chairman Courville** called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

**Chairman Courville** then asked to **Receive Public Comments**. There were no **Public Comments** for this meeting.

There being no further comments, **Chairman Courville** asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by **Commissioner Manuel** and **Chairman Courville** Adjourned the meeting.

## **APPENDICES**

**ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT**  
**FEBRUARY 2017**

# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 1      Grand Total Citations: 49

Parishes: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River, Webster

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 26
7	Angling W/O A License	
1	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
3	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Gross Littering	
1	Hunt Deer Illegal Methods.	
1	Hunt W/O Primitive Weapon License (Resident)	
1	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
3	Littering	
2	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Operate ATV Vehicle on Public Road	
1	POSS.OVERLIMIT OF DUCKS	
1	Taking/Poss. Over Limit Or Undersized	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 23
7	Angling W/O A License	
3	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
6	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
1	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Hunt Waterfowl W/O State Duck License	
1	Improper Running Lights	
1	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
2	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Use WMA W/O License or Stamp	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 1	Confiscations
	1-Black Bass 1 – Doe Deer 1 – Pistol

Region: 1	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
1	

# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 2      Grand Total Citations: 63

Parishes: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita,  
Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 40
1	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
2	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
4	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
1	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
3	Gross Littering	
1	Hunt Ducks or Geese W/O Federal Stamp	
1	HUNT MGB FROM PUBLIC ROAD	
1	HUNT MGB WITH ILLEGAL FIREARM	
1	Hunt on WMA without WMA Hunting Permit	
4	Hunt or Discharge Firearm from Levee Road	
4	Hunt or Take Deer Illegal Hours	
1	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game Lic	
2	Hunt wild game quads. and/or wild game birds Illegal hours	
1	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
3	Littering	
1	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Poss. of Firearm of Convicted Felon - Certain Felonies	
1	Possess Over Limit of Deer	
1	Trap or Sell F.B.A. or Parts	
1	Violate outlaw quad night hunting regulations	
1	Violating National Wildlife Regulations	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 23
4	Angling W/O A License	

# **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report**

**Region: 2      Grand Total Citations: 63**

**Parishes: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita,  
Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll**

<b>Written Warnings</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Cases: 23</b>
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
4	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
1	Fail to Wear Hunters Orange	
1	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Hunt on WMA without WMA Hunting Permit	
1	Hunting With Unsigned Duck Stamp	
7	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Use WMA W/O License or Stamp	

<b>Region: 2</b>	<b>Confiscations</b>
	2 – Raccoons 3 – Crappie 1 – Black Bass 1 – Section of Gill Net 1 - Shotgun

<b>Region: 2</b>	<b>Total Number For Public Assistance</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Description</b>
6	



# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 3      Grand Total Citations: 132

Parishes: Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine,  
Vernon, Winn

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 124
1	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
11	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
18	Angling W/O A License	
1	Criminal Trespass	
1	Discharge Firearm From Public Road	
2	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
1	Fail to complete trip tickets (fisherman)	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
9	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
1	Fail to Maintain Records	
2	Failure to Abide By Commission Rules	
6	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
2	Failure to Mark/Tag Nets. (freshwater)	
5	Gross Littering	
1	Hunt Deer Illegal Methods.	
1	HUNT MGB WITH UNPLUGGED GUN	
1	Hunt or Take Deer From Public Road	
1	Hunt or Take Deer Illegal Hours	
2	Hunt or Take Deer Illegal Hours	
1	Hunt W/O Primitive Weapon License (Resident)	
3	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game Lic	
2	Hunt wild game quads. and/or wild game birds Illegal hours	
4	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
1	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
9	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
2	Illegal possession of Game Fish(specify)	
1	Illegal Spotighting From Public Road	

# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 3      Grand Total Citations: 132

Parishes: Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine,  
Vernon, Winn

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 124
1	Improper Running Lights	
1	Lacey Act	
1	Littering	
1	Littering	
2	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
7	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Operate a vehicle while under suspension (on highway)	
2	Poss. of Firearm of Convicted Felon - Certain Felonies	
2	Possession of Illegally Taken Deer	
1	Refuse/Misrepresent Booking Info	
1	Resisting An Officer	
1	Sell and/or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail	
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O CommGear Lic	
2	Take or Poss. Game Fish Illegally (Specify)	
2	Take or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species	
1	Taking/Poss. Over Limit Or Undersized	
2	Use Illegal Length/Mesh Nets - Freshwater	
1	Violating National Wildlife Regulations	
1	Violation of Probation or License Revocation	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 8
6	Angling W/O A License	
1	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
1	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 3	Confiscations
	10- Smoking Device for Narcotics; 4 – Baggies of Meth; 6 – Baggies of Marijuana; 14 – Marijuana Roaches; 2 – Marijuana Blunts; 1 – Grinder (narcotics); 53 – Pills; 2 – Syringes; 1 – Spoon; 1 – Torch Lighter; 1 – Tourniquet; 1- Set of Scales for Narcotics; 1 – Capsule with Unknown Powder; 2 – Rifles; 1 – Sound Suppressor; 7 – Deer 7 – Packages of Deer Meat; 24- Bass; 7 – Catfish; 196 – Crappie; 11 – Shad; 5 – Gar 1 – Bowfin; 2 – Drivers License; 1 – 900 Foot Gill Net

Region: 3	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
0	

# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 4      Grand Total Citations: 112

Parishes: Iberia, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, West Baton Rouge

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 84
4	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
1	Altered Certificate of Number	
9	Angling W/O A License	
2	Criminal Trespass	
1	Discharge Firearm From Public Road	
3	Discharge Firearm From Public Road	
4	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
3	Fail to complete trip tickets (fisherman)	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
9	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
1	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Fail to Maintain Records	
1	Fail to Report Commercial Fishery Data	
1	Fail to Wear Hunters Orange	
1	Fail to Wear Hunters Orange	
1	Failure to Abide By Commission Rules	
1	Failure to Comply W/Visual Distress Signals	
1	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
1	Hunt on WMA without WMA Hunting Permit	
1	Hunt or Take Deer From Public Road	
1	Hunt or Take Deer From Public Road	
1	Hunt or Take Deer Illegal Hours	
4	Hunt or Take Deer Illegal Hours	
1	Hunt W/O Primitive Weapon License (Resident)	
2	Hunt W/O Primitive Weapon License (Resident)	
1	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game Lic	
1	Hunt Waterfowl W/O State Duck License	

## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 4      Grand Total Citations: 112

Parishes: Iberia, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, West Baton Rouge

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 84
1	Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft	
1	Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft	
3	Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft	
1	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
2	Improper Running Lights	
1	Littering	
2	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
2	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Operate a vehicle while under suspension (on highway)	
1	Resisting An Officer	
2	Resisting An Officer	
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass	
1	Taking or Possessing Alligators Closed Season	
3	Taking or Possessing Alligators Closed Season	
1	Violate crab trap escape ring requirements	
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Req.	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 28
4	Angling W/O A License	
4	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
1	Fail to Wear Hunters Orange	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
6	Hunt Waterfowl W/O State Duck License	
2	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
2	Improper Running Lights	
4	No Boat Numbers	
4	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 4	Confiscations	
	4 – Deer 1– Crossbow 1 – Pistol 3 – 9mm Casings	1 – Alligator Carcass 1 - Shotgun 1 – Spent .410 Shotgun Hull 7 - Pellets

Region: 4	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
1	

# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 5      Grand Total Citations: 113

Parishes: Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis,  
Vermilion

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 96
5	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
5	Angling W/O A License	
2	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Angling W/O Saltwater License	
2	Fail to comply W/Hunter Safety Regulations	
5	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
3	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
1	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
2	Fail to Maintain Records	
1	Failure to Change Ownership of Regist. (45days)	
1	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Proper Number on Vessel	
4	Gross Littering	
1	Hunt Ducks or Geese W/O Federal Stamp	
3	Hunt Ducks or Geese W/O Federal Stamp	
2	HUNT MGB ILLEGAL HOURS	
2	HUNT MGB ILLEGAL HOURS	
2	Hunt on WMA without WMA Hunting Permit	
1	Hunt Waterfowl W/O State Duck License	
3	Hunt Waterfowl W/O State Duck License	
1	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
5	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
1	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
4	Improper Running Lights	
1	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
1	Littering	
1	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	

# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 5      Grand Total Citations: 113

Parishes: Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis,  
Vermilion

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 96
1	Operate a vehicle while under suspension (on highway)	
4	Operate ATV Vehicle on Public Road	
2	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated	
2	Sell and/or Buy Fish W/O Retail Seafood License	
1	Take or Poss. O/L Black Drum (Rec.)	
1	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)	
1	Take or Poss Commercial Fish W/O Vessel Lic	
2	TAKING ROBINS-NO SEASON	
1	Taking/Poss. Over Limit Or Undersized	
3	USE LEAD SHOT IN AREA DESIG.AS STEELSHOT	
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Req.	
15	Violating National Wildlife Regulations	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 17
5	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O Saltwater License	
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
4	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
2	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
1	Improper Running Lights	
1	Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reef	
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Req.	



**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 5	Confiscations
	1 – Goose Marijuana

Region: 5	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
2	

# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 6      Grand Total Citations: 251

Parishes: Assumption, Lafourche, St. James, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Jefferson  
(Grand Isle) 2nd

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 115
1	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
12	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
1	Angling W/O A License	
8	Angling W/O A License	
5	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
5	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
1	Angling W/O Saltwater License	
1	Buying or Selling For Resale Untagged Oysters	
1	Careless Operation	
1	CML Fisherman Sell to Consumer w/o Fresh Products Lic	
1	Driving Without Operators License	
1	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
1	Fail to complete trip tickets (fisherman)	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
3	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
4	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Fail to Report Commercial Fishery Data	
2	Failure to Have Written Permission	
2	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
1	Failure to Tag Sacked or Containerized Oysters	
1	Gross Littering	
1	Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester Lic(See 56:303.6)	
1	Hunt wild game quads. and/or wild game birds Illegal hours	
3	Improper Running Lights	
4	Littering	
1	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
3	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	

# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 6      Grand Total Citations: 251

Parishes: Assumption, Lafourche, St. James, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Jefferson  
(Grand Isle) 2nd

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 115
2	Obtain License by Fraud	
1	Operate a vehicle while under suspension (on highway)	
1	Operate Unregistered Motorboat or Sailboat	
1	Poss. of O/B or Motorboat W/Serial No. Removed/Altered	
1	Possession of Untagged/improperly tagged oysters 10%+	
1	Sell and/or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail	
4	Take Commercial Fish W/O CommGear Lic	
1	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)	
1	Take or Poss. Undersized Red Drum	
1	Take or PossCommercial Fish W/O Vessel Lic	
2	Take or PossCommercial Fish W/O Vessel Lic	
2	Take or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species	
4	Take Undersize Bowfin	
1	Take/Poss. Undersized Spotted Sea Trout (Rec.)	
1	Take/Possess Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester License	
4	Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area (Polluted)	
1	Taking/Poss. Over Limit Or Undersized	
1	Theft of crab trap(s)	
6	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms	
2	Unlawfully Take Oysters Off a Private Lease	
1	Use crab traps without required markings	
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Req.	
1	Violate Sanitation Code (log book)	
3	Violate Sanitation Code (log book)	
1	Violate Sanitation Code (Refrigeration)	
1	Violate Shad Gill Net Provisions	

# **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report**

**Region: 6      Grand Total Citations: 251**

**Parishes: Assumption, Lafourche, St. James, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Jefferson  
(Grand Isle) 2nd**

<b>Written Warnings</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Cases: 136</b>
36	Angling W/O A License	
10	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
7	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
17	Angling W/O Saltwater License	
3	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
3	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
3	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
2	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
11	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
1	Failure to Change Ownership of Regist. (45days)	
7	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
6	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
1	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
7	Improper Boat Numbers	
3	Improper Running Lights	
3	No Boat Numbers	
4	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
2	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
2	Take or Poss. O/L Black Drum (Rec.)	
4	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)	
3	Take or Poss. Undersized Red Drum	

<b>Region: 6</b>	<b>Confiscations</b>	
	44-Sacks Oysters	4 - Perch
	1-Rabbit	3 - Vessels
	1-Red Drum	3 - Oyster Dredges
	1-Black Drum	1- Resident License
	12-Bowfin	1 - Commercial Data Page
	3-Sheephead	
	Various forms of Drugs and Paraphernalia	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 6	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
0	

## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 7      Grand Total Citations: 157

Parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa,  
Washington, West Feliciana

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 151
9	Angling W/O A License	
7	Bow Hunt W/O Bow Lic	
1	Discharge Firearm From Public Road	
3	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
30	Fail to comply with deer tagging or harvest record	
1	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
2	Fail to Wear Hunters Orange	
4	Fail to Wear Hunters Orange	
2	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
5	Gross Littering	
2	Hunt Deer Illegal Methods.	
3	Hunt Ducks or Geese W/O Federal Stamp	
3	HUNT MGB ILLEGAL HOURS	
2	Hunt or Take Deer Closed Season	
2	Hunt or Take Deer From Public Road	
2	Hunt or Take Deer Illegal Hours	
10	Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game Lic	
1	Hunt W/O Primitive Weapon License (Resident)	
2	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game Lic	
12	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game Lic	
3	Hunt Waterfowl W/O State Duck License	
2	Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft	
10	Hunting W/O Non-Resident Lic	
13	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
1	Intentional concealment, destruction or deposit fish or wildlife	
4	Intentional concealment, destruction or deposit fish or wildlife	
6	Littering	
1	Possess Over Limit of Deer	
2	Possession of Illegally Taken Deer	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Enforcement Case Report**

**Region: 7      Grand Total Citations: 157**

**Parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa,  
Washington, West Feliciana**

<b>Written Citations</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Cases: 151</b>
2	Possession of Illegally Taken Deer	
2	Take Over Limit of Deer (Daily Bag)	
1	TAKING HERONS-NO SEASON	
1	USE LEAD SHOT IN AREA DESIG.AS STEELSHOT	

<b>Written Warnings</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Cases: 6</b>
1	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Improper Boat Numbers	
3	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Running Foxes or Bobcats W/Dogs During Still	

<b>Region: 7</b>	<b>Confiscations</b>
	1 - Turkey

<b>Region: 7</b>	<b>Total Number For Public Assistance</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Description</b>
3	

# **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report**

**Region: 8      Grand Total Citations: 152**

**Parishes: Jefferson (E1,W2,24), Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, St. Tammany**

<b>Written Citations</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Cases: 108</b>
4	Angling W/O A License	
6	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
6	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
6	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
1	Driving on Levees	
1	Driving Without Operators License	
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail To Have Commercial Lic. in Poss	
1	Failure to Have Written Permission	
2	Failure to Have Written Permission	
4	Failure to Abide By Commission Rules	
1	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
4	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Proper Number on Vessel	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
4	Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester Lic(See 56:303.6)	
1	Hunt Ducks or Geese W/O Federal Stamp	
1	Hunt on WMA without WMA Hunting Permit	
1	Hunt Waterfowl W/O State Duck License	
2	Hunt wild game quads. and/or wild game birds Illegal hours	
1	Hunting Gallinules Closed Season	
2	Hunting W/O Non-Resident Lic	
2	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
2	Hunting W/Unplugged Gun or Silencer	
1	Illegal possession of wild game quads. or wild game birds	
3	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
1	Improper Running Lights	



# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 8      Grand Total Citations: 152

Parishes: Jefferson (E1,W2,24), Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, St. Tammany

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 108
1	Intentional concealment, destruction or deposit fish or wildlife	
1	Intentionally destroy, conceal, dispose of	
1	Lacey Act	
1	No Boat Numbers	
2	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Operate Watercraft During License Suspension	
1	Operating a Vessel While Intoxicated	
1	Poss. O/L of Red Drum In Excess of 27	
2	Poss. O/L of Red Drum In Excess of 27	
1	Possess over 10 Red Drum (on water)	
1	Possess Wild Birds or Wild Quadrupeds W/O a Lic	
1	Possessing F.B.A. W/O License	
3	Take Commercial Fish W/O CommGear Lic	
1	Take or Poss. O/L Spotted Sea Trout (On Water)	
1	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)	
2	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)	
2	Take or Poss. Undersized Red Drum	
1	Take or PossCommercial Fish W/O Vessel Lic	
3	Take or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species	
3	Take Oysters Illegal Hours	
2	Take/Poss. Undersized Spotted Sea Trout (Rec.)	
3	Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area (Polluted)	
2	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms	
3	Unlawfully Take Oysters Off a Private Lease	
1	Violate Federal Reef Fish Regulations	
2	Violate Recreational Gear License Req.	
1	Violate Sanitation Code (log book)	
2	Violate Sanitation Code (log book)	

# **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report**

**Region: 8      Grand Total Citations: 152**

**Parishes: Jefferson (E1,W2,24), Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, St. Tammany**

<b>Written Warnings</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Cases: 44</b>
5	Angling W/O A License	
3	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Bow Hunt W/O Bow Lic	
1	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
2	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
3	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
2	Fail to Wear Hunters Orange	
1	Failure to Change Ownership of Regist. (45days)	
3	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
1	Filing False Applications	
4	Hunt on WMA without WMA Hunting Permit	
3	Improper Boat Numbers	
1	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
1	No Boat Numbers	
1	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
7	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Take/Poss. Undersized Spotted Sea Trout (Rec.)	
1	Taking/Posses immature female crabs as per 76 PartVII:346	

<b>Region: 8</b>	<b>Confiscations</b>
67-Oyster Sacks	1 - Rabbit
35-Red Drum	2 - Nutria
4-Black Drum	52 - Nutria Tail
1-Sheephead	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 8	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
8	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Enforcement Case Report**

Written Citations: 744

Written Warnings: 285

Public Assistance: 

21
----

## **Month Long Investigation Leads to Deer Hunting Citations**

---

*Release Date: 02/01/2017*

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agents cited a Franklinton man for alleged deer hunting violations on Jan. 30 in Washington Parish.

Agents cited Johnny D. Tarver, 31, for taking over the daily limit of deer, failing to comply with deer tagging requirements, intentional littering and intentional concealment or destruction of wildlife.

Agents began investigating Tarver after receiving a tip on Dec. 30, 2016 about Tarver possibly harvesting three deer on the same day. After a month long investigation, agents determined that Tarver harvested a six point, five point and spike deer on Dec. 25 in Washington Parish. Hunters were only allowed one antlered and one antlerless deer for this area on Dec. 25.

Agents also learned that Tarver threw the deer remains, antlers and meat into the Bogue Chitto River near Clifton in Washington Parish after Tarver got word of the investigation.

Intentional concealment of wildlife carries a \$900 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Taking over the daily limit of deer brings a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Failing to comply with deer tagging requirements carries a \$100 to \$350 fine and up to 60 days in jail. Intentional littering brings up to a \$500 fine and eight hours of community service in a litter-abatement work program as approved by the court.

Tarver may also face civil restitution totaling \$4,874 for the replacement value of the three illegally taken deer.

Agents participating in the case are Sgt. Darryl Galloway and Sgt. Toby Miller.

## **Three Men Cited in St. Bernard Parish for Illegal Oyster Harvesting**

---

*Release Date: 02/01/2017*

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agents arrested three men for alleged oyster violations on the morning of Jan. 31 in St. Bernard Parish.

Agents arrested Dustin J Robin, 30, of St. Bernard, Randal Assavedo Jr, 35, of Mereaux, and Carlos Mejia, 42, of Houston, Texas for dredging for oysters in a polluted area, unlawfully taking oysters off a private lease, taking oysters during illegal hours, and failing to have written permission to harvest oysters on a private lease. Robin, the captain of the vessel, was also cited for failing to fill out an oyster log book.

Agents were patrolling the Lake Robin area when they observed a vessel actively dredging in the lake around 6 a.m. Upon making contact with the vessel the agents discovered the men were dredging in a polluted area on a private lease without written permission during illegal hours.

Agents seized and returned 12 sacks of oysters to the water and seized two oyster dredges. They also seized the vessel on a department seizure order.

Dredging for oysters in a polluted area and unlawfully taking oysters off a private lease each carries a \$900 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Taking oysters during illegal hours and failing to have written permission each brings a \$400 to \$950 and up to 120 days in jail. Failing to fill out an oyster log book carries a \$25 fine and up to 10 days in jail.

The men could also have their oyster harvester licenses revoked by the department for up to one year. The violators could also be sentenced to perform 40 hours of community service and only be allowed to harvest oysters from a vessel with a vessel monitoring device for up to one year.

Agents involved in the case are Senior Agent Blaine Wagner and Agent Kyle Haydel.

## **St. Bernard Man Cited for Violating New Crabbing Regulations**

---

*Release Date: 02/02/2017*

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) enforcement agents cited a St. Bernard man for alleged commercial crab violations in Plaquemines Parish on Feb. 1.

Agents cited Allan Campo, Sr., 51, of Violet, for possessing immature female crabs.

Beginning in 2017, commercial crab fishermen in Louisiana state waters may not harvest immature female crabs regardless of size. However, a legally licensed commercial crab fisherman may have an incidental take of immature female crabs not to exceed two percent of the total number of crabs.

On Jan. 20, LDWF agents found Campo in violation of the new crabbing regulation percentages and issued him a written warning.

On Feb. 1, agents were on patrol near Shell Lake in Plaquemines Parish and observed Campo actively crabbing. Agents found two illegal crates of crabs with percentages of eight percent and ten percent of the total catch being immature female crabs.

Agents seized the crabs and returned them back to the water.

An immature female crab, also known as a "maiden" or "V-bottom" crab, can be identified as having a triangular shaped apron on her abdomen. A mature female crab can be identified as having a dome shaped apron on her abdomen.

Possessing immature female crabs carries a \$100 to \$350 fine and up to 60 days in jail and forfeiture of their crab catch.

LDWF agents participating in the case are Sgt. Jason Gernados and Senior Agent Patrick Dempsey.

## MONTHLY BOATING CRASH / INCIDENT REPORT

### February 2017

#### February / YEAR TO DATE

<u>NUMBER OF BOATING INCIDENTS</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>NUMBER OF INJURIES</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>NUMBER OF FATALITIES</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

2/17/17      Terrebonne

Vessel (4 occupants / Remote steer) was being operated at night on Falgout Canal when it collided with a bank of rocks causing it to become grounded. PFD's were not used.

\*2/19/17      Caddo

Vessel (unoccupied / 14' Flat-no motor) was located on Jeems Bayou near Caddo Lake. Subject was recovered nearby – investigation pending. A PFD was not used.

2/22/17      Assumption

Vessel (1 occupant / 16' Remote steer) was stationary while throttle in neutral. While tossing cast net, throttle was inadvertently engaged causing forward movement. Subject fell on gunwale and ejected as vessel filled w/water and sank. Occupant was transported for medical attention. PFD use is unknown.

2/22/17      St. Martin

Vessel (1 occupant / Remote steer) was being operated on Henderson Bay when it struck a submerged object (Stump) causing it to stop forward progression. While occupant stepped toward stern in an attempt a push off, water entered over the transom causing vessel to overturn. A PFD was used.

2/24/17      Sabine

Vessel #1 (1 occupant / Remote steer) collided with vessel #2 (2 occupants / Remote steer) while both were being operated on Toledo Bend Lake. The collision caused major damage to both vessels and minor/moderate injuries to all three occupants. PFD's were not used.

2/28/17      Sabine

Vessel (1 occupant / 15' Tiller steer) was being operated on Toledo Bend. For unknown reasons, the occupant was ejected and injured his arm. Arm cuts are consistent with possible prop strikes. Occupant was transported for medical attention. A PFD was used.

\*Denotes Fatality





## 2017 Summary of Public Comment for Conditionally Approved NOI

Kenny Ribbeck| LDWF Commission Meeting| 03/02/2017

### Public Comments to Date for NOI, and WMA and Federal Lands Schedule

- **Comments via email, mail, phone call:**
  - 101 (97 email, 1 mail, 3 phone)
  - 45 related to proposed changes
- **Public Hearings:**
  - 8 hearings
  - 116 attendees
  - 62 individuals commented
    - 17 comments were related to proposed changes
- **Total Comments Related to Proposed Changes:**
  - Teal Season Change: 7 in support
  - Deer Areas 4 and 10 Changes: 10 in support, 14 opposed, 2 neutral
  - Deer Area 5 Change: 1 neutral
  - Deer Area 7 Change: 1 opposed, 4 neutral
  - Turkey Season Change: 9 in support, 5 opposed, 2 neutral
  - WMA Exp. Quality Deer Season Closure: 1 in support, 2 opposed
  - Deer Tag Validation Change: 1 opposed
  - WMA Dove Shot Change: 1 opposed
  - Youth Waterfowl Age Change: 1 opposed
  - Dewey W. Wills Deer Season Changes: 1 in support



### **Public Comment**

Public comment will be accepted at LWFC monthly meetings from now through March 5 or may be submitted directly to Steve Smith, LDWF Wildlife Division, PO Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, phone 225-765-2359 and 318-487-5885, or via email to [ssmith@wlf.la.gov](mailto:ssmith@wlf.la.gov) .



Date	Topic	Name	Comment
6-Jan	Waterfowl/Waterfowl Seasons	Chad Miller	like proposed teal season/Would like later Coastal Zone season/Would like consistent youth age.
6-Jan		Chuck Miramon	Concerns over surface drives and houseboat mooring near Pass a loutre WMA.
6-Jan		byronlandry25@gmail.com	Requests mud motors to be prohibited on WMAs after 1:00pm.
6-Jan		Eddie Gunucheau	Requests later statewide seasons.
6-Jan		Lee Kabrich	Opposed to change in Pintail limit.
6-Jan		Richard Kabrich	Opposed to change in Pintail limit.
6-Jan		Jude Songe	Requests later statewide seasons.
6-Jan		Claude Dupre	Requests later Coastal Zone season.
10-Jan		Dave Gegenheimer	Opposed to change in Pintail limit.
10-Jan		Cori Manzi	Requests a season with no split
12-Jan		David Richard	Suggestions on state setting limits lower than federal allowances.
21-Jan		Beverly Doiron	Requests changes to snow goose seasons.
25-Jan		Corey Toups	Request seasons to be as late as possible.
30-Jan		David Bernard	Supports proposed change in youth age.
7-Feb		Perry Pellegri	Requests later Coastal Zone season.
8-Feb		Michael Brit	Requests later Coastal Zone season.
14-Feb		Jon Clark	Requests different dates for West Zone
16-Feb		Bob Whitaker	Supports proposed Teal season change.
22-Feb		Charles Williams	Requests rest areas on WMAs and surface drive restrictions on Atchafalaya Delta WMA.
22-Feb		Garret Van Bebber	Requests expansion of restricted areas on Atchafalaya Delta WMA.
22-Feb		William Holcomb	Opposed to youth age change.
23-Feb		Joseph Russo	Prefers season to be moved later.
23-Feb		Johnny Ha	Requests expansion of restricted areas on Atchafalaya Delta WMA.
24-Feb		Andrew Stoute	Requests later season dates.
27-Feb		John Chaisson	Miscellaneous waterfowl comments.
27-Feb		Glenn Vincent	Supports teal season change.
6-Jan	Statewide Deer Seasons and Regulations	Todd Crowe	Thinks Deer Area 4 should be six point or better
6-Jan		Mickey Cavalier	Requests Area 5 to have no doe days in January and a reduced limit.
6-Jan		Johnny Blackmon	Requests later deer season in Area 4 and suggestions for deer tags. Supports lower limit in Area 4.
6-Jan		jasomduet@gmail.com	Opposed to Area 4 limit reduction.
6-Jan		Scott Hidalgo	Requests limit reduction and antler restriction in Area 9.
6-Jan		byronlandry25@gmail.com	Requests limit reduction and either sex all season in Area 9.
6-Jan		Guy Bell	Requests shorter seasons, fewer tags, antler restrictions, and elimination of dog hunting.
6-Jan		Levi Ledet	Requests either sex harvest all season and lower limits in Area 9.

7-Jan	Bill Bryan	Not sure what he is saying.
9-Jan	Bruce White	Supports Area 4 proposed changes.
10-Jan	Andrew Becnel	Opposed to Area 4 Proposed changes
10-Jan	Cori Manzi	Requests reduced limit from 6 to 3 statewide.
13-Jan	Harvey Kimble	Opposed to Area 4 Proposed changes.
13-Jan	Edward Bigner	Thinks Deer Area 4 should be six point or better. Requests week of bucks only in September.
11-Jan	Ronald Aguilard	Requests that E. and W. Feliciana be exempt from 3 deer limit in Area 4. Opposed to changing Area 4 from bucks only to either sex.
12-Jan	Debby Fauchaux	Opposed to reduced deer limits (does not specify which area).
13-Jan	Jimmy Stafford	Supports Area 4 change from bucks only to either sex. Requests a 4 deer limit instead of 3.
18-Jan	Jimmy Jeansonne	Opposed to proposed 3 deer limit (does not specify which area).
19-Jan	Donald Labure	Opposed to Area 4 proposed changes
20-Jan	John Giroir	Opposed to deer limit changes (does not specify which area).
23-Jan	Shane Jones (phone)	Supports limit change in Areas 4 and 10.
23-Jan	Lorrie Hood (phone)	Requests elimination of deer hunting with dogs in Area 2.
24-Jan	Gary Lee	Supports Area 4 proposed changes.
25-Jan	James Rushing	Opposed to proposed changes for Deer Areas 4 and 10.
25-Jan	Todd Jackson	Questions about Deer Area 4 proposed changes and boundaries.
25-Jan	Heath Martin	Expresses concerns over Area 4 deer seasons and limits.
25-Jan	Danny Sharkey	Expresses concerns over Area 4 deer seasons and limits.
27-Jan	Shawn Barr	Requests shorter seasons, antler restrictions, and requirement for returning unused tags.

28-Jan		Joshua Bishop	Requests lower limits and antler restrictions in Area 9.
29-Jan		Steve Buteau	Opposed to proposed Area 7 change, supports proposed Area 5 change, expresses concerns about doe harvest and Attakapas WMA seasons.
31-Jan		Emily Gilly	Requests more doe days in Area 9.
1-Feb		Ronald Vignaier (letter)	Opposed to proposed changes for Deer/Areas 4 and 10.
3-Feb		Sidney Gonzales	Supports proposed changes for Deer Area 4.
6-Feb		Doug Frey	Supports proposed changes for Deer Area 4.
6-Feb		Vick Clark	Requests later Deer Area 4 seasons.
6-Feb		Samuel	Requests later Deer Area 6 opener.
6-Feb		Somny Dervetoy	Opposed to proposed change for deer tag validation.
9-Feb		Curtis Freeman	Requests lower, statewide limits.
10-Feb		Darrel Barbara	Opposed to proposed change for Deer Area 4.
16-Feb		David Boozert	Supports proposed changes for Deer Area 4.
21-Feb		Mike Ferramusca	Opposed to proposed change for Deer Area 4.
21-Feb		Ross Williams	Opposed to proposed changes for Deer Area 7.
21-Feb		Daniel Kopelman	Opposed to proposed changes for Deer Area 4.
22-Feb		Grady Bullock	Suggests several changes for Deer Area 5.
23-Feb		Robert Gonsolin	Opposed to proposed changes for Deer Areas 4 and 10.
24-Feb		Graig Mack	Requests several miscellaneous changes.
24-Feb		TJ Rose	Requests several changes for Deer Area 5 and Attakapas WMA.
27-Feb		George Scruggs	Supports proposed changes for Deer Area 4.
27-Feb		Glenn Vincent	Opposed to changing Deer Area 10 to either sex. Supports changing Deer Area 10 to 3 deer limit.
27-Feb		Scott Barnwold	Opposed to proposed changes for Deer Area 4.
6-Jan	Statewide Turkey Seasons and Regulations	Jimmy Stafford	Supports proposed season changes.
6-Jan		Ben Ballard	Supports proposed season changes.
9-Jan		Thomas Manual	Supports proposed season changes.
9-Jan		Chester Bass	Would prefer earlier opener than proposed and harvest restricted to mature gobblers.
10-Jan		Steven Howze	Supports proposed season changes.
15-Jan		Shane Armand	Suggestions for increased enforcement for turkey seasons and regulations.
26-Jan		Joshua Souleau	Supports proposed season changes.
6-Feb		Johnny Ashford	Opposed to proposed season changes.
13-Feb		Kisatchie National Forest	Supports proposed season changes.
26-Feb		Pat Butler	Opposed to proposed season changes.
6-Jan	WMA Deer Seasons	byronlandry25@gmail.com	Requests fewer gun days.

24-Jan		Larry Guinness	Expresses concerns over deer season lengths on Richard K. Yancey WMA.
25-Jan		Johnathan Parker	Opposed to closure of Exp. Quality Deer Seasons on WMAs.
24-Feb		Johnathan Sanchez	Supports proposed changes to Dewey W. Willis Deer Seasons.
6-Jan	General WMA Rules and Regs	Trinity Hillstead	Requests that locals in a parish are first to have a chance to hunt WMAs within that parish.
12-Jan		Bryan Garner	Requests allowance to use centerfire rifles and artificial light for take of hogs during hunting seasons.
23-Jan		Joshua Patterson (phone)	Opposed to closure of Exp. Quality Deer Seasons on WMAs.
25-Jan		tippy1504@gmail.com	Expresses concerns over use of aftermarket exhaust for surface drives on WMAs.
25-Jan		Tim Marks	Requests partial closure of Sherburne shooting range during hunting seasons.
25-Jan		Corey Toups	Request expansion of LAA on Atchafalaya Delta WMA.
26-Jan		m.hussong@yahoo.com	Requests additional day be added to the one day turkey lottery on West Bay WMA.
28-Jan		Joshua Bishop	Expresses concerns over deer season length on Salvador WMA.
22-Feb		William Holcomb	Opposed to youth age change for dove to non-toxic shot only.
11-Feb	Other	William Fradella	Requests expansion statewide on private and public lands on allowing take of feral hogs.
10-Feb		Joe Gautat	Requests expansion on hog and predator data 102:0103 or hunting on WMAs.
22-Feb		Tommy Pousson	Requests small game to begin after deer archery seasons.
27-Feb		Richard Basco	Miscellaneous comments and requests.



## 2016/2017 Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season Summary

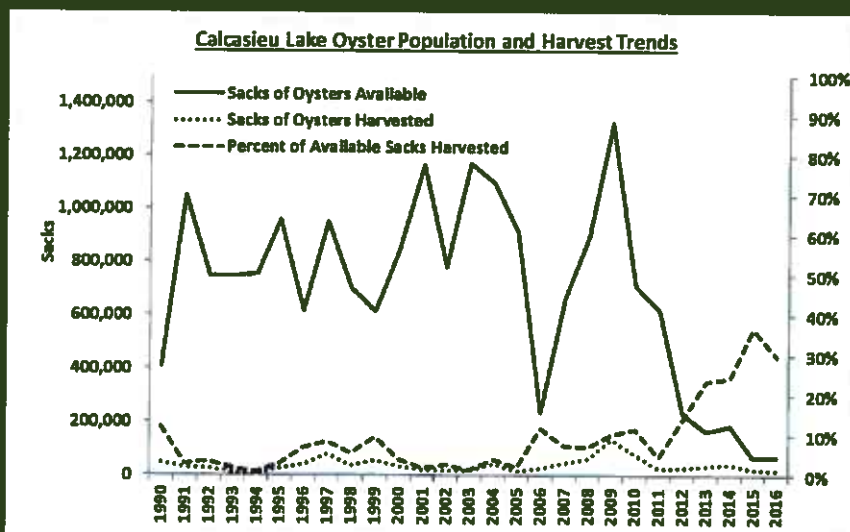
Steve Beck

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

March 2, 2016

### 2016 Calcasieu Lake Oyster Stock Assessment

- Added 2 stations: fleet observation/extra sampling
- Both East and West Side <20% long-term average stock size
- Troubling Trend: harvesting larger percent of resource during past several years despite decreased landings/stock size



## Setting the 2016/2017 Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season

---

- September 1, 2016: LDWF Recommends Full Closure  
LWFC Requests Additional Data Review and  
Joint Sampling Trips with Harvesters
- October 5, 2016: LDWF Recommends Full Closure  
LWFC Opens Oyster Season Nov. 1  
LDWF Recommends Strict Quota  
(15% Available Resource)
- November 1, 2015: Season Opens
- December 1, 2016: Harvesters Request 30% Quota
- January 23, 2016: Cheniere Reef Area Opens
- January 24, 2017: LDWF Closes West Cove (30% harvested)
- February 13, 2017: LDWF Closes East Side (30% harvested)



## 2016/2017 Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season Summary

---

Goals: Reduce harvest pressure in West Cove to allow for population recovery and prevent East Side situation.

Total Harvest Estimate: 21,780 sacks (86% of 2015/2016 season)

	<u>East Side</u>	<u>West Cove</u>
<u>Harvest (sacks):</u>	8,053 (Cheniere: 4,550)	13,717
<u>Season Length:</u>	88 days (83.8%)	58 days (68.2%)
<u>Max. Observed Effort:</u>	46 boats/day	34 boats/day
<u>Max. Derived Effort:</u>	65 boats/day	55 boats/day





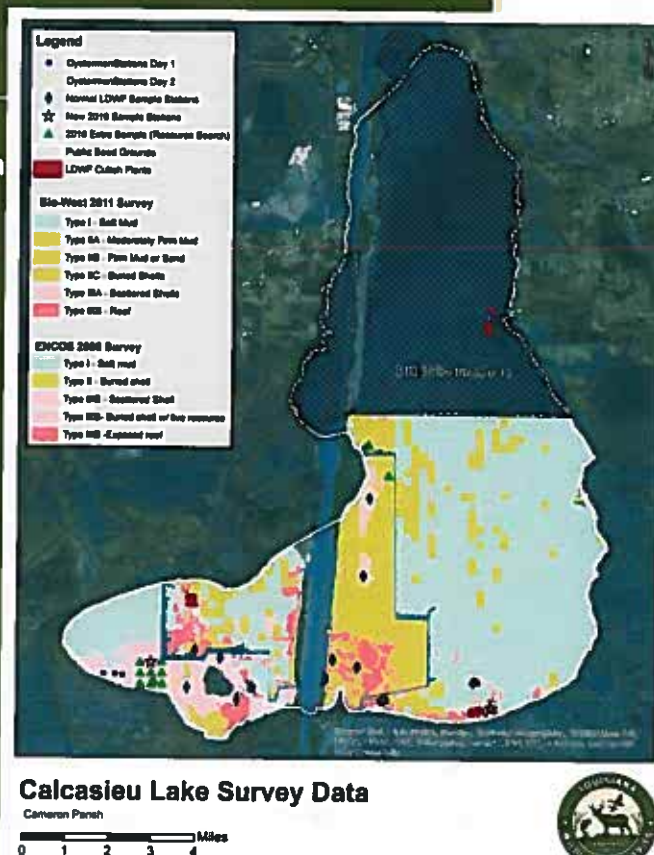
**-Average Season Length:**

East Side:	155 days (83.5%)
West Cove:	109 days (58.3%)



**-Limit Daily Harvest/Season Length**

- Adding stations to better characterize population

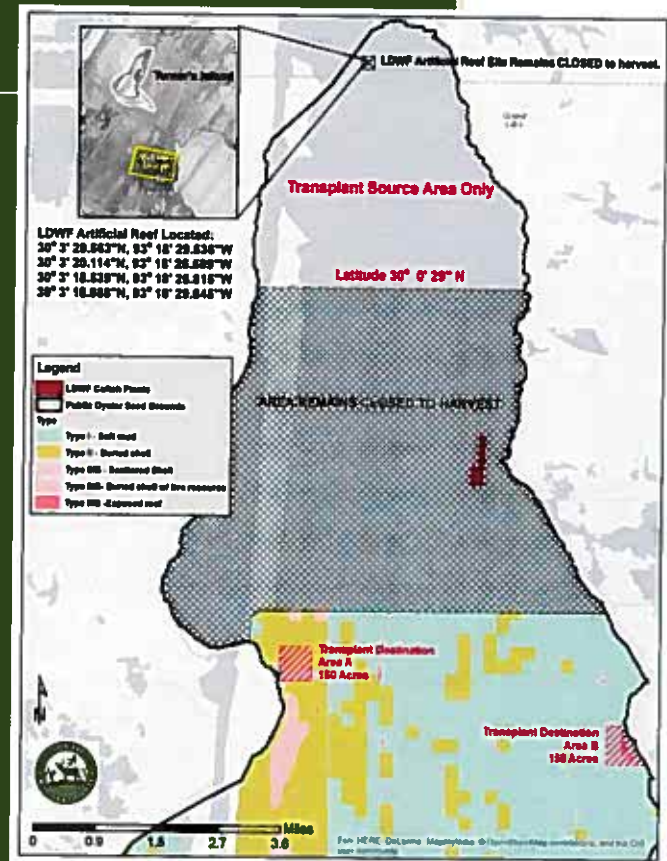
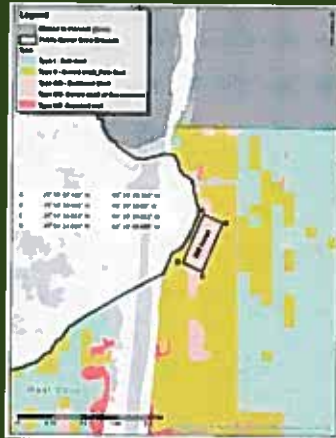


## Planned Rehabilitation Efforts

-90 acre cultch plant (Long Point)

-Hire harvesters to transplant oysters from north to south

-Provide Commission authority for allowable gear (legislation)





## **Menhaden Bait Fishery**

### **Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

Natchitoches, LA

March 2, 2017

# Stock Status

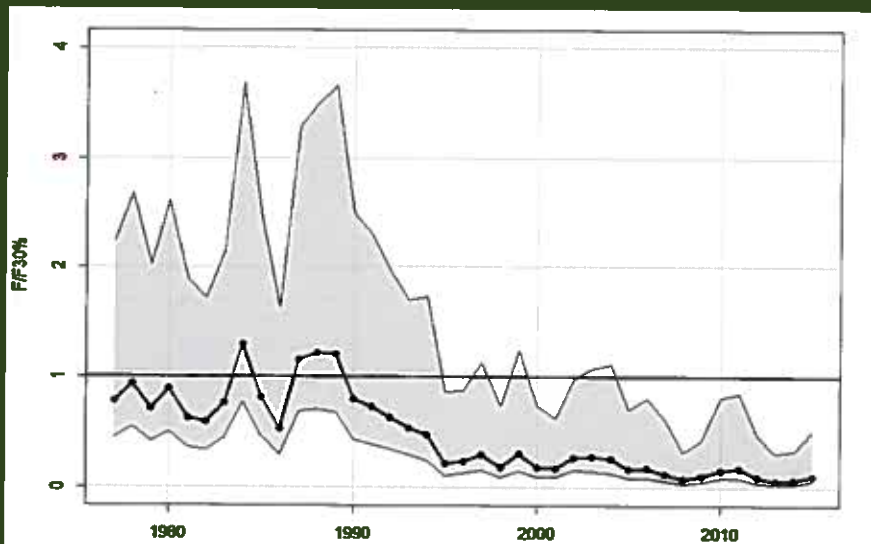


## Menhaden Status in Gulf of Mexico

- Update assessment conducted in 2016
- Data was from 1977 through 2015
- Stock is not overfished or undergoing overfishing
- Population and spawning stock increased since 2013 assessment
- Stock fishing mortality threshold is F30% (equivalent to harvest of 1,500,828,134 lbs)
- Stock fishing mortality target is F35% (equivalent to harvest 1,462,948,353 lbs)
- Spawning stock is 3.5 times that of the threshold



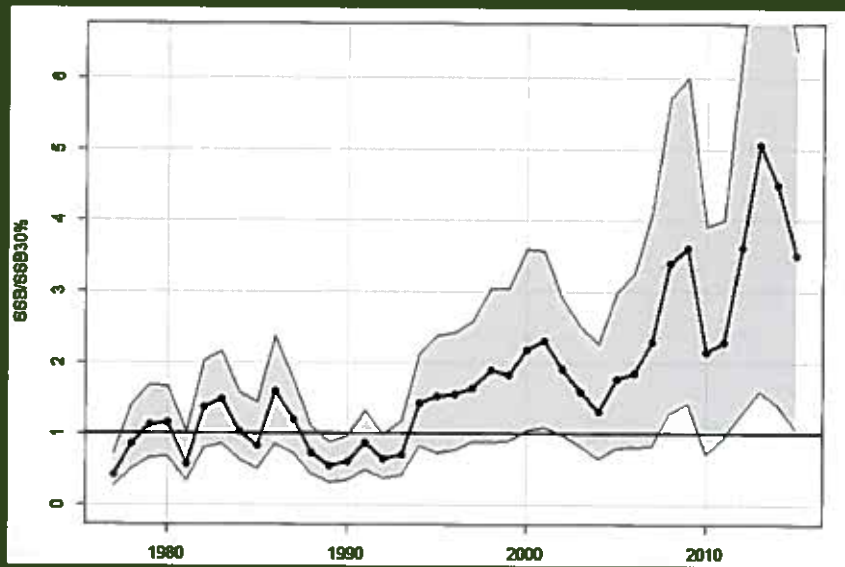
## Menhaden Status in Gulf of Mexico



Fishing Mortality relative to threshold of F30% during assessment time series.

\* Source is Figure 21 in 2016 Gulf Menhaden Update Assessment (GSMFC document # 254)

## Menhaden Status in Gulf of Mexico



Spawning Stock Biomass relative to threshold of SSB30% during assessment time series.

\* Source is Figure 21 in 2016 Gulf Menhaden Update Assessment (GSMFC document # 254)



## Louisiana Bait Menhaden Fishery



## Menhaden Bait Fishery

- Bait Season from close of regular Season (Nov. 1) until December 1. Month of November.
- Bait Fishery may also start April 1 if quota not met in November season. Regular season begins 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in April (April 17, 2017).
- Bait quota is 3,000 metric tons or 6.6 million lbs.



## Menhaden Bait Fishery

- Bait Landings during the bait season have never exceeded 1% of the total Louisiana landings.
- Landings by bait companies during the regular season have never exceeded 2% of total Louisiana landings.
- Landings by bait companies during both seasons have never exceeded 1.5% of total Gulf of Mexico menhaden landings.





# Menhaden Fishery Set Locations



Not just state waters. Dots are set locations



## Total Gulf of Mexico Commercial Menhaden Landings (2000-2015)

Year	Species	Pounds
2000	MENHADEN	1,303,895,228
2001	MENHADEN	1,165,244,072
2002	MENHADEN	1,290,407,390
2003	MENHADEN	1,142,747,056
2004	MENHADEN	1,023,259,717
2005	MENHADEN	815,494,506
2006	MENHADEN	901,397,775
2007	MENHADEN	1,005,325,101
2008	MENHADEN	927,517,404
2009	MENHADEN	1,002,579,318
2010	MENHADEN	753,441,625
2011	MENHADEN	1,398,654,362
2012	MENHADEN	1,078,139,032
2013	MENHADEN	971,308,312
2014	MENHADEN	848,598,968
2015	MENHADEN	1,188,984,434



Questions?





## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

### **Commercial Menhaden Harvest**

### **2017 Commercial Bait Gulf Menhaden Season**

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

### **Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

**March 2, 2017**

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 49:953(H) which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to employ emergency procedures to establish seasonal rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and 56:326.3 which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, and 56:325.6 which provides for an extended bait gulf menhaden season outside of the regular commercial menhaden season; the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby sets the following season for the commercial harvest of bait gulf menhaden in Louisiana state waters:

The commercial season for the harvest of bait gulf menhaden taken within Louisiana state waters or landed in Louisiana shall open at 12:01 a.m., March 15, 2017. The harvest of bait gulf menhaden shall not exceed the established quota of 3,000 metric tons for the 2016-17 bait menhaden season.

The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to modify the season for the commercial harvest of bait gulf menhaden as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Chad J Courville, Chairman

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **Gulf Angler Focus Group Initiative:** Process Overview and Identified Management Options

Chris Macaluso  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

March, 2017



## **About the Gulf Angler Focus Group Initiative**

- **Purpose:** for the recreational sector to identify and consider a suite of alternative management options that could provide for reasonable access and the sustainable harvest of Gulf reef fish fisheries generally, and the Red Snapper fishery specifically.



## About the Gulf Angler Focus Group Initiative

- Met 7 times over 15 months
- Facilitated by FCRC Consensus Center at Florida State University
- Planning Committee:
  - American Sportfishing Association
  - Coastal Conservation Association
  - Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
  - Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership



## About the Gulf Angler Focus Group Initiative

Total of 52 Participants

GULF ANGLER FOCUS GROUP INITIATIVE PARTICIPATION BY AFFILIATION							
	Private Anglers	For-Hire	Env. NGO	Rec. Ind.	Commercial	State Reg.	Fed. Reg.
TOTALS	17	9	5	7	2	10	2



## About the Gulf Angler Focus Group Initiative

- Although the Initiative primarily focused on the evaluation of management options, a full range of relevant issues and options were discussed during the process
- Including: recreational harvest data collection, biological data collection, stock assessment, regional management, season length/access to the fishery, allocation, and sector separation.



## About the Gulf Angler Focus Group Initiative

- Two sets of questions were submitted to NOAA. Responses found in the Appendices
- Responses to these questions are tremendously relevant to considering the Options.



## Options Overview

- **Not recommendations**, but rather **options** that may warrant further analysis and review
- Some may not be acceptable or practical
- Options have not been fully analyzed or vetted by NOAA Fisheries.



## Options Overview

- Status Quo
- Maximizing Fishing Days Within Current Framework
- Harvest Tags
- Depth/Distance-Based Management
- Reef Fish Season
- Harvest Rate/Recruitment-Based Management
- Hybrid of Various Options



## A. Status Quo

- Private recreational fishing effort is managed by inconsistent state and federal seasons and regulations. (66-365 state days vs. 9 federal)
- Status quo management may provide the best overall access if other options don't improve access.
- Benchmark for evaluating other options.



## A. Status Quo

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Pros:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Longer state seasons = more opportunity</li><li>■ Rec sector stays below ACL (2016 exception)</li><li>■ 20% buffer should help rebuilding</li><li>■ Well-known and familiar</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Cons:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Disadvantages some states/regions</li><li>■ 20% buffer sacrifices fishing access</li><li>■ Enforcement challenges</li><li>■ Encourages derby fishing in federal waters</li><li>■ Effort occurs during spawning season</li><li>■ Likely untenable long-term</li></ul></li></ul> |
|--|---|



## B. Maximizing Fishing Days Within Current Framework

- Private recreational fishing effort would continue to be managed through seasons, size limits and bag limits throughout the Gulf. To provide more days in federal waters, possible management changes include:
  - reducing the bag limit
  - implementing size/slot limits
  - barotrauma reduction
  - congruent state and federal seasons and regulations.



## B. Maximizing Fishing Days Within Current Framework

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Pros:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Familiar framework</li><li>■ Many changes can increase quota</li><li>■ Consistent state and federal regs would level the playing field</li><li>■ Consistent regs would facilitate understanding, compliance and enforcement</li><li>■ A longer federal season could reduce effort compression</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Cons:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Increasing days in federal waters comes with tradeoffs</li><li>■ Reduced bag limit would be unacceptable for many</li><li>■ Might not be possible to get to an acceptable season length</li><li>■ Reaching consensus among managers and stakeholders could be a challenge</li></ul></li></ul> |
|--|--|





## C. Harvest Tags

- Private recreational fishing harvest would be constrained in part or in whole based on a finite number of tags that would be distributed among anglers.



## C. Harvest Tags

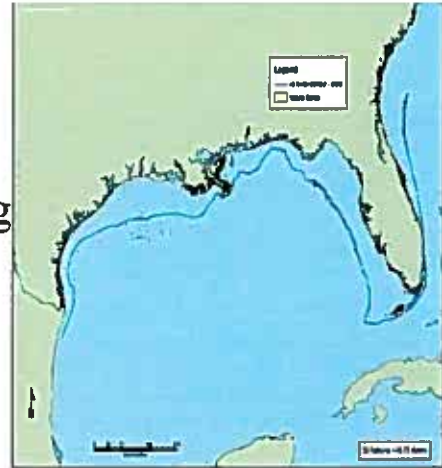
- Pros:
  - Flexibility to fish
  - Concretely limits catch and effort
  - Potentially more accurate harvest estimate
  - Could provide access to small portions of the stock where impossible under existing management approach
  - Enforcement may be easier
  - Improved safety
- Cons:
  - Individuals potentially have a less than 100% chance of acquiring a single tag
  - Only option may be national lottery
  - No current examples
  - How to address state-by-state allocation?
  - Cost of administering may be cost-prohibitive
  - Doesn't fit with recreational "culture"
  - Could become commodities, IFQ trading
  - Potentially no more accurate than current data collection





## D. Depth/Distance-Based Management

- A management strategy that provides a depth or distance-from-shore fishing zone.
- Recreational red snapper fishing closed beyond that zone
- Could increase production and replenish annual fishing within the fishing zone.



## D. Depth/Distance-Based Management

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Pros:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ May produce greater fishing access/longer seasons</li><li>■ Portion of stock is protected</li><li>■ Less impacts of barotrauma</li><li>■ Consistent regs would facilitate understanding, compliance and enforcement</li><li>■ Improved at-sea safety</li><li>■ Already occurring to an extent</li><li>■ Alternative to sector separation?</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Cons:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Potential enforcement challenges (where is exact boundary?)</li><li>■ Requires agreement among managers</li><li>■ How to account for incidental red snapper mortality in protected area?</li><li>■ Data/analysis not currently available</li></ul></li></ul> |
|--|---|



## E. Reef Fish Season

- Grouping together reef fish for the purpose of management and creating a season or seasons where a bag limit is set for a group aggregate.
- Reef fish regulations would be established as a unit as opposed to regulations for individual species.



## E. Reef Fish Season

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Pros:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Could reduce bycatch mortality currently attributable to incidental catch during closed season</li><li>■ If season is longer, could better account for bad weather days</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Cons:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Season set on lowest common denominator?</li><li>■ How to determine appropriate regulations based on seasonality and geographic differences?</li><li>■ May not resolve state-federal inconsistency</li></ul></li></ul> |
|--|---|



## F. Harvest Rate/Recruitment-Based Management



- Management targets would be based on recruitment and the rates of removals caused by fishing, not a poundage-based ACL rooted in past harvest.
- Not fully evaluated for the purpose of this report due to the long-term data needs and potential limitations due to MSA.



## G. Hybrid of Various Options

- A combination of two or more of the above options. E.g.:
  - Status quo management coupled with additional quota leased/purchased from another sector designated as harvest tags to be fished in the federal area any time during the year.
  - Depth/distance-based management coupled with a portion of the quota designated as harvest tags available to be used outside the depth/distance zone during some portion or all of the year.
  - A reef fish season coupled with harvest tags for low ACL species such as triggerfish.
  - A reef fish season coupled with depth/distance-based management.



## Conclusions

- No easy solutions
- A hybrid of options may work
- Significant modeling and analyses are a prerequisite to finding solutions
- Simple is better
- Organizations involved are still working on Congressional solution





## Re-Cap Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting - New Orleans

January 30 – February 2, 2017  
Patrick Banks

### DATA

The Council took FINAL ACTION on the generic amendment relating to logbooks in the charter/headboat industry. Vessels will have to:

- Hail out prior to departing for a fishing trip
- Have to submit fishing records prior to unloading catch
- Records must be submitted on a NMFS approved device
- The GPS portion of the hardware and antenna must be permanently affixed to the vessel
- Location data need not be real time, archived position data is sufficient



## CORAL

- A scoping document, Coral Amendment 7, was approved to move forward and obtain scoping comments.
- A meeting will be held in Houma March 6, 2017.
- The discussion will relate to protecting deep water coral.



## SHRIMP

- A public hearing draft of Shrimp Amendment 17B will go out for public comment. A public hearing will be held in Houma on March 6, 2017. Action items include the following:
  - Aggregate Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) = 112 million pounds tails
  - Aggregate Optimum Yield (OY) = 85 million pounds tails
  - Minimum threshold of shrimp permits = 1072
  - Review panel kicks in when permits = 1175
  - A transit provision that allows non-federally permitted vessels to transit the EEZ



## Gag

### Results of recent stock assessment

- Not Overfished
- Not undergoing Overfishing
- Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) projections for the years 2017-2019 remain above the current Annual Catch Limit (ACL) of 3.12 million pounds gutted weight, and therefore no changes to the ACL will be made given some of the uncertainties associated with the condition of the stock.



## Charter/Headboat

- Staff will develop a white paper to discuss adding red grouper, gag, amberjack, and triggerfish into a charter-for-hire management program consistent with recommendations of the Red Snapper Charter Vessel and Reef Fish Headboat advisory panels (Reef Fish Amendment 41).
- Staff was also directed to discuss a cyclical redistribution for shares of red snapper in a stand alone action.



## Commercial Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) modifications.

Reef Fish Amendment 36A discusses:

- Hail in requirements
- Inactive shareholder accounts
- Mid-year quota changes
- Public comment will be through direct mail and webinar.
- The Council may take FINAL ACTION at the April meeting.
- The Council will begin working on Reef Fish Amendment 36B which will discuss allocation caps, restrictions on transfers, lease to own, and set asides.



## Triggerfish

- The Council reviewed a public hearing draft for Reef Fish Amendment 46, Grey Triggerfish Rebuilding Plan.
- This document considers rebuilding timeline, annual catch limits and targets along with recreational fixed closed seasons, bag limits, and minimum size limits; as well as the commercial trip limit change.
- A public hearing to receive comments will be held on March 15, 2017, via webinar.





## Mackerel

### Coastal Migratory Pelagic Amendment 29

- Recreational sector historically lands 35% to 65% of their quota
- Commercial sector historically harvests 98% to 105% of their quota
- Conditional transfer (allocation sharing) of quota from the recreational sector to the commercial sector was deliberated
- The amendment was postponed indefinitely.

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a small red orb on the horizon, casting a bright orange glow across the sky and water. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The water in the foreground is dark with gentle ripples.

**ANY QUESTIONS?**



## **LDWF Aquatic Plant Control Program - Issues and Expectations**

Ricky Moses  
Director, Inland Fisheries

## **Invasive Aquatic Plants in Louisiana**



Floating, Emergent, Submerged



# Invasive Aquatic Plants in Louisiana

Plant	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Acres of Infestation					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Wheat Hyacinth	1881	96,130	65,275	89,810	98,047	81,361	81,198
Hydrilla	1975	62,800	37,725	47,618	43,563	30,240	29,885
Common Salvinia	1980	44,310	46,410	33,960	29,440	27,884	29,438
Common Salvinia	1998	38,805	52,400	45,354	52,496	57,877	57,138



## Bodies of Water with Giant Salvinia



## Control Methods

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Chemical

Mechanical

Biological



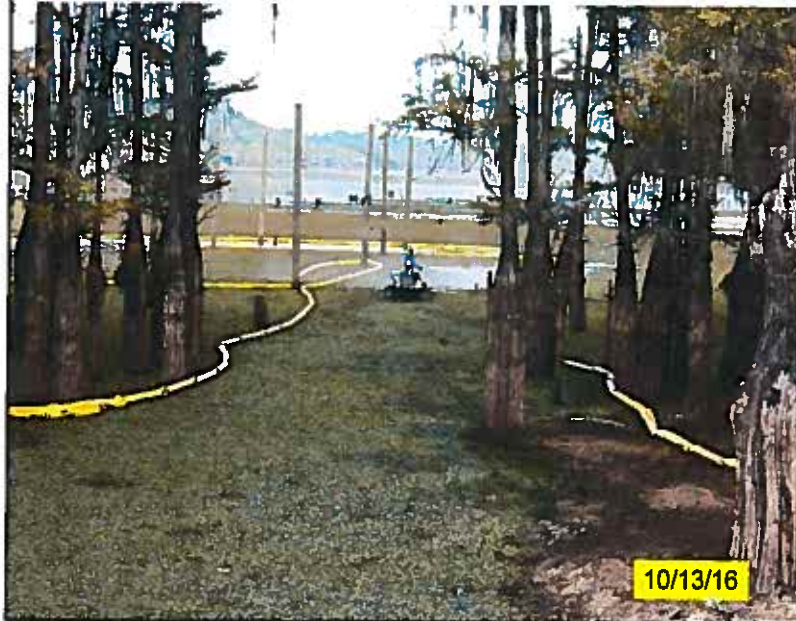
## Acreage of Aquatic Plants Treated by LDWF

Fiscal Year	Acres
2006/2007	30,653
2007/2008	61,000
2008/2009	67,951
2009/2010	75,021
2010/2011	55,609
2011/2012	66,944
2012/2013	89,324
2013/2014	79,791
2014/2015	52,082
2015/2016	56,970





**Boating Access Improvements  
Bossier Parish Public Launch**



**Boating Access Improvements  
Bossier Parish Public Launch**



## Giant Salvinia Weevil Rearing Ponds

LSU AgCenter

- Clinton, LA
- St. Gabriel, LA
- New Iberia, LA

Other Locations

- ULL-Lafayette
- USACE – Lewisville, TX



## Giant Salvinia Weevil Stocking Efforts



- Transplanting since 2008
- Excellent results in south LA
- Failure to establish north of 32° N in US
  - Maybe not!
- January 2017 weevil samples (adults/kg of fresh plants)
  - Lake Bistineau: 3-12
  - Iatt Lake: 18-300
  - Saline Lake: 28
  - Turkey Creek: 35-143
  - Caddo Lake: 65-74



## **Current and Future Research**

- **LSU AgCenter**
  - Cold tolerant weevil research
  - Giant salvinia herbicide/surfactant trials
  - Giant salvinia weevil production
- **Army Corps of Engineers**
  - Giant salvinia weevil production/research



## **Expectations for 2017**

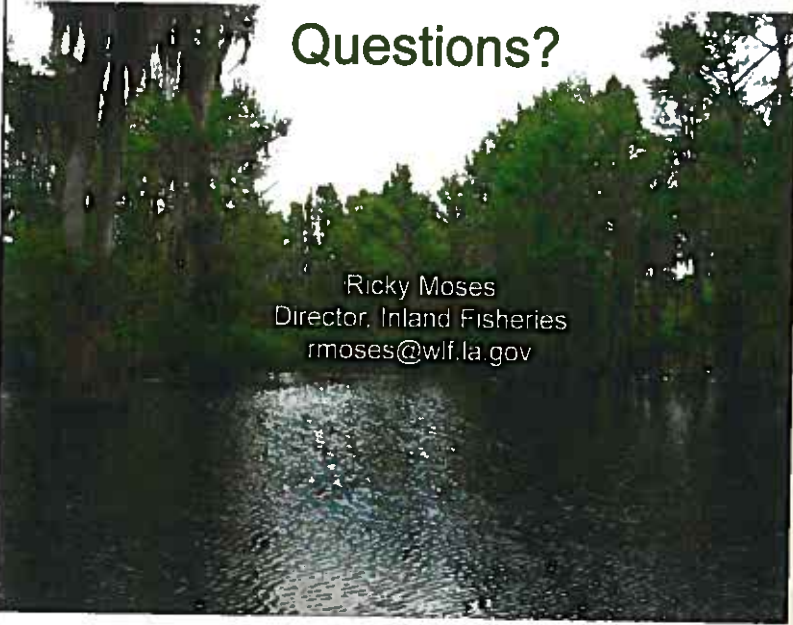
Mild winter gave the plants a head start  
Contractor spray efforts began in February

- Typically don't start until late March/April

### **Unknowns**

- Flood events
- Red River Waterway Commission
  - Has removed their biological control program





# Questions?

Ricky Moses  
Director, Inland Fisheries  
[rmoses@wlf.la.gov](mailto:rmoses@wlf.la.gov)

